

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically at page 41 and Figure 25.

No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1-6, 9-15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,025 to Goulden et al. (hereinafter, merely "Goulden") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,837 to Yeo et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yeo") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. 5,977,974 to Hatori et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hatori") and U.S. Patent No. U.S. 6,253,218 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter, merely "Aoki") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,772 to Nomura et al. (hereinafter, merely "Nomura").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein when an image that is presently focused is ahead of the input image data, the image generation means generates a dummy image for a display area that is before the presently focused image.” (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that Goulden, Yeo, Hatori, Aoki, and Nomura, taken either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found that discloses or suggests wherein when an image that is presently focused is ahead of the input image data, the image generation means generates a dummy image for a display area that is before the presently focused image, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, claim 1 recites using dummy images for a display area that is before the presently focused image when the presently focused image is a head of the input image data.

None of the references suggests or teaches the above identified feature of claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, claim 10 is patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Each of the other claims in this application is dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and is therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons presented for the independent claim upon which it depends. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

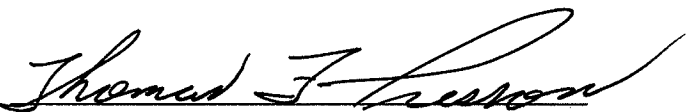
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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